

THULE

TIMES

821st Air Base Group

Thule AB, Greenland

August 26, 2005

Vol. 3, Issue #2

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Extreme endurance

Airmen run punishing 26.2 miles at 76 degrees North

page 9

Caption contest

Readers decided what Airman Peters is up to - find out

weather forecast

Average Temperature

28 degrees Fahrenheit

Maximum Temperature

50 degrees Fahrenheit

Minimum Temperature

-5 degrees Fahrenheit

Maximum Wind Speed

76 Knots

information provided by

Weather Station Operations

Operation BOXTOP puts Team Thule on Alert

■ Story by

1st Lt. Justin Herman

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

The normally quiet flightline here became a busy place to be recently as Operation BOXTOP brought dozens of flights and personnel to Thule.

Operation BOXTOP, which takes place during each August and April, resupplies Canadian Forces Stations Alert and Eureka with dry goods and fuel for use throughout the year.

The event also brings 162 Canadian Air Force personnel here, expanding the base population almost 20 percent, and adds an additional 87 flight missions.

According to Tech. Sgt. Doug Kahn, 821st Support Squadron chief of logistics plans, the operation was filled with challenges to be overcome.

"Bringing in the supply boats with the goods to be loaded and shipped up to the Canadians was a feat," said Sergeant Kahn. "The biggest challenge to overcome is the unpredictable weather, but if you get 100 percent of the mission met, that's a success story right there."

Arctic weather conditions interrupted the transport mission briefly.

"The Canadians had some missions scrubbed due to the harsh weather, but we were able to meet the objectives just the same."

During off-days, the annual BOXTOP Olympic Games were



Courtesy photo

Cargo crates destined for Canadian Forces Station Alert are lifted onto a CC-150 Airbus Aug. 18 in support of Operation BOXTOP. Operation BOXTOP brings the US and Canadian Air Force together to supply CFS Alert, located 800 kilometers from the North Pole, and CFS Eureka with fuel and dry goods for the winter months.

held, pitting two teams against each other for the traditional trophy. The two teams, one Canadian and one composed of the diverse international community at Thule, squared off at events both at Thule and CFS

during which passengers caught glimpses of the Arctic scenery and wildlife.

"One of our NCO's got to sit in the cockpit during the flight as saw whales swimming in the Arctic Ocean. Another NCO got to be in the cockpit during the landing," said Chief Armading.

CFS Alert is located 800 kilometers from the North Pole, the most northern permanent settlement in the world.

"CFS Alert itself was very well organized so you don't have to

travel much outside," added Chief Armading. "And the Canadians were very welcoming hosts who certainly know their hockey."

Operation BOXTOP returns to Thule in April.

"The biggest challenge to overcome is the unpredictable weather, but if you get 100 percent of the mission met, that's a success story right there."

Tech. Sgt. Doug Kahn
821st Support Squadron



Alert, including archery, darts, a timed climb up Mount Dundas and a run.

Team Thule's Chief Master Sgt. Richard Armading took the hour and a half flight to CFS Alert on a C-130 with the other olympiads,

Top 4 now 'Thule Sergeants Association'

The Top 4 will be entitled the Thule Sergeants Association after an upcoming ammendment to it's constitution, according to Master Sgt. James Cobbs, organization vice president.

The decision to change the name came after a vote, where the lead nominees, 'Thule Sergeants Association' and 'High Five' carried 74 percent of the votes.

BASEketball comes to Thule

A BASEketballgame between Airmen and Noncommissioned officers will be held Sept. 16 at the gym here at 3:00pm. There will be a special gift for the first 50 fans to arrive, according to Staff Sgt. Matthew Gilbride, event volunteer. For more information or rules, contact Team NCO captain Master Sgt. Scott Chandler.

Catholic worship time and date change

The date and time of the Catholic worship services here has changed to Saturdays at 5:00pm at the request of the Catholic community. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information contact Master Sgt. Leanne Ray or the Chapel Staff.

Nine pin bowling tournament to be held

A nine pin bowling tournament will be held at the bowling center here Sept. 3 at 2:00pm. The winning team receives a trophy, and participants are asked to sign up by Aug. 31. The cost is \$40 per team of five, including the price of bowling, shoe rental and food. To sign up please contact Master Sgt. Rob Watchus.

Senior enlisted CJCS advisor appointed

Gen. Peter Pace has selected Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey to serve as the senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff beginning Oct. 1. This is a newly created position established to advise the chairman on all matters involving enlisted personnel in a joint environment.

Sergeant Major Gainey has more than 30 years active duty experience.

Secured field



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Andy Kim

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Airborne operators secure a field while others search for explosive ordnance during an operational readiness inspection Aug. 10. The operators are from the 823rd Red Horse Squadron at nearby Hurlburt Field.

Commander's Team Thule Action Line

■ Answered by

Col. David J. Buck
821st Air Base Group commander

QUESTION:

It can be difficult to contact my family over the phone without any commercial lines here. What is being done to make it easier to keep in touch with friends and loved ones?

- Concerned Caller

ANSWER:

Concerned Caller,

That's a great question we are continuously working to address. We currently have many alternatives to commercial phone calls, which Team Thule members can always make using a phonecard from home or our Base Exchange.

First, we've expanded our internet access to allow sites including Hotmail and Yahoo Mail. This makes it simple to send personal messages and photos without using your work account.

Second, we have two webcams up and running, with more to come. Often



Courtesy photo

being able to see friends and family goes a lot farther than just hearing their voice, and we're glad to be able to offer this service.

And finally, nothing beats a good old-fashioned care package from or to home.

Thank you for the question, and continue to let us know your questions and concerns. And for more insight into Team Thule, keep reading our Thule Times newsletter.

DAVID J. BUCK, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 821st Air Base Group

Seven Questions -- Space Weapons Part II

■ *Interview by*
Carolyn O'Hara
Foreign Policy magazine

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following interview of Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf, deputy commander of Air Force Space Command, originally appeared in Foreign Policy magazine. Permissions have been obtained for publication in AF newspapers.

FOREIGN POLICY: The Air Force doctrine on space weapons refers to "offensive counterspace operations." What does that mean?

Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf: [Offensive counterspace operations] deny adversaries access to space capabilities. That does not necessarily mean combat in space or direct attacks on satellites. There are many ways to counter enemy access to space, including attacking the ground segment of a space system or interrupting a link. It is simplistic to think that offensive counterspace can only mean space-based weapons. Our first priority is to use means that are temporary and reversible.

Critics of space weapons suggest reaching an agreement among space-faring nations to establish rules of space warfare. But you don't have to be a space-faring nation to have access to space capabilities. All you need is a credit card, and you can get imagery derived from satellites very readily. That's a space capability. Nonstate adversaries that are opposing the United States or its allies could access commercial imagery and use it against us.

FP: Why should space dominance be a priority now?

DL: It's a priority because it has transformed the way we fight—in terms of precision, communication, navigation, and awareness of the enemy. If those capabilities are taken away from our forces,

it will be beyond unfortunate. We'll be more likely to be forced to fight because we will know less. When we do fight, we will lose more people and resources. We will also be less precise, more destructive, and kill more on the enemy side of the lines. Do we really want to become less precise and to know less in the interest of an academic argument about the nature of space? I don't think so.

FP: Aren't the offensive counterspace strategies laid out by the Air Force a threat to other countries?

DL: It is clear that some find it provocative. But I know that we in the Department of Defense are being very responsible and thoughtful about our response. Part of that is recognizing that spurring an arms race will have more negative consequences than we can stand. But at the same time, we have to be responsible. It would be foolish to eliminate from our consideration some capabilities that may be necessary in the future. I would certainly not want to testify to some future equivalent of the 9/11 Commission and say, "Well, yes, we knew there might be weapons used against our satellites and we weren't ready to respond because it didn't seem like the right thing to do."

I can't speak for our adversaries, but I have a very difficult time believing that they aren't looking for ways to counter our space capabilities. We have to be responsible and prepared.

FP: The former secretary of the Air Force said that "the proverbial first shot of space warfare has already been fired" with the use of jammers against U.S. satellites. What does that mean?

DL: Our defensive counterspace mind-set means that when something happens to a space system—to the link, the ground segment, or the satellite—rather than simply assuming that it is a space weather or computer problem, we also look at whether we are under at-

tack. We don't assume that an adversary is attacking, but we don't assume they aren't, either.

FP: Are the Air Force's programs designed to avoid creating space debris?

DL: We appreciate the dangers of space debris. Our priority is on temporary and reversible means, not destruction. But we also know that there could be the potential for such a significant threat that destroying it might merit the resultant debris. I have never been issued a crystal ball, so I'm not going to dismiss the possibility that it could happen.

FP: If weapons are space-based, they'll be expensive to launch, maintain, and replace. How much more money are you seeking from the budget?

DL: The programs compete on their merits. Space is difficult, and the physics make it expensive. But with Department of Defense budgeting, we never get what we ask for. We put forward in good faith what we believe the right capabilities are for the nation and adjust to what is given.

FP: Critics jump on the fact that some of the budgets are classified. Why is that necessary? Doesn't it give critics ammunition to say that the Air Force is pursuing offensive capabilities more than you're letting on?

DL: We protect classified information when it needs to be protected. There are times when it does need to be protected. I am disappointed that they don't trust us. We have been a trustworthy service in the Department of Defense in following national policy. There are some who will criticize regardless, but I am confident that we are responsible stewards of our nation's space capabilities and military considerations in the use of space. The environment of space does not separate it from the sad tapestry of warfare.



Reflections in an Icecap asks, 'Ready to grow?'

Tips for making the most of your tour

■ *Viewpoint by*
Master Sgt. Mike Williams
Team Thule First Shirt

Iwould have never guessed that I would get a short notice assignment to Thule.

I came here from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, where I've spent the last two years of my career performing Shirt duty in very busy B-1 Bomber and C-130 maintenance squadrons. Like most of us I left a wonderful family behind, my wife Rebecca and two children, Ashleigh, 8, and Dominic, 2.

First and foremost, thanks to everyone for the warm welcome and assistance in getting me settled into Team Thule. Second, while we are away from our families and friends, it is important to remember why we are here -- to do our best to make Team Thule better than when we arrived.

Make no mistake about it; we are all here taking care of

serious business. Our leadership is doing all they can to ensure we have the same opportunities as those back home, but you have to buckle down and do your part. 12 months go by really fast, and what you don't want to do is look back and realize the only thing you have accomplished is wasting time.

The number one way to have a successful tour is to take every opportunity you can, safely. When the weather permits, take the time for Thule Trippin' and the once-in-a-lifetime experiences that seem to happen here all the time.

“Our leadership is doing all they can to ensure we have the same opportunities as those back home, but you have to buckle down and do your part.”

Also, enhance your personal and professional growth. Our Air Force is the finest air and space force in the world because of the generations of professional Airmen who have devoted time on and off-duty to strive for and achieve personal excellence. For most, taking one class per semester

will give you enough credits to finish your Community College of the Air Force degree or get you closer to your bachelors.

With your help and continued diligence, Team Thule will remain the best group in the wing, representing the best air and space force on the planet.

Airman overboard



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

(left photo) Tech. Sgt. Gerald Gromko, 821st Support Squadron, jumps off a Danish police cutter as Master Sgt. Leanne Ray, 821st Air Base Group, is pulled aboard the ship by a crane. The team dove into the Arctic Ocean to demonstrate use of Zodiac water survival suits during an "open ship" event here Aug. 7.

(top photo) Master Sgt. Leanne Ray floats in the Arctic Ocean using a water survival suit during an "open ship" event aboard a Danish police cutter here Aug. 7.

ThuleTimes grills the **Post Office...**

What will you
miss most
about **24-hour sunlight?**



"Being able to see the buildings. I've gotten lost."
Airman 1st Class Paulette Smith



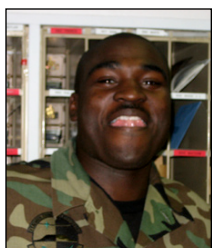
"Midnight Thule Trippin."
Staff Sgt. Doug Reighard



"Well, I'm usually in a better mood in the daylight."
Airman 1st Class Cynthia Vaughn



"Not much, cause I like the dark. You get away with more."
Master Sgt. Zanitta Kisner



"Seeing your smiling faces, up front and in person."
Senior Airman Brian Commodore



with Conny Sangild
Hometown: Herning, Denmark

Where do you recommend our Airmen visit when TDY in Copenhagen?

Nyhaun, which means New Harbor, is where everyone is at at the end of summer, with it's cafes, restaurants and live music. The Little Mermaid statue is a national landmark, but someone cut its head off... again. That's the second time that's happened.

26.2 miles at 76 degrees north

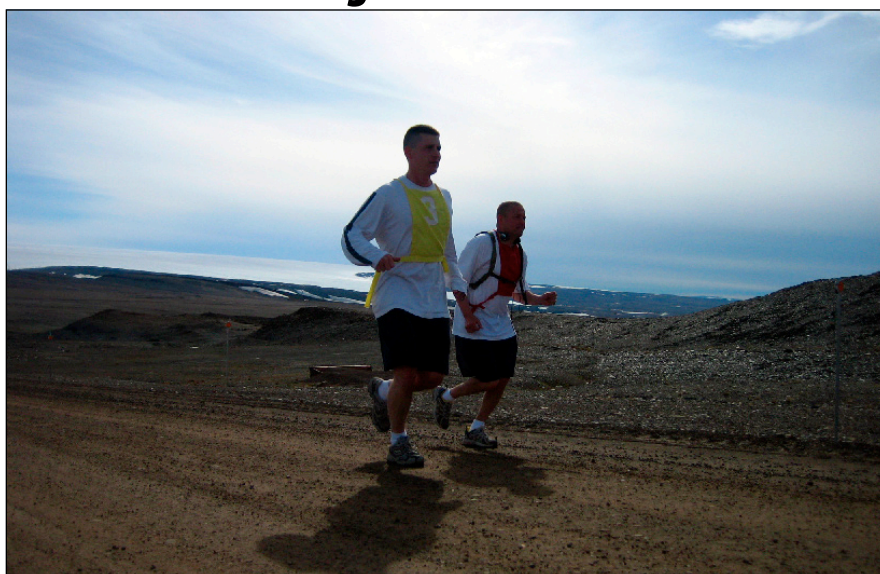


Photo by 1Lt. Justin Herman

Capt. Cory Baker, 821st Support Squadron, and Master Sgt. Michael Aiken, 821st Security Forces Squadron, breeze past the icecap at mile-fourteen of the annual Team Thule Marathon here Saturday. Four Airmen completed the punishing 26.2 mile course, taking competitors from the main base, along the ridge of the Greenlandic polar icecap, uphill to the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System and back again. Maj. Steve LaCasse completed the marathon first out of the Airmen with a time of 5 hours, 7 minutes.



Col. David J. Buck, 821st Air Base Group commander
1st Lt. Justin T. Herman, chief, Public Affairs and Protocol

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VTC confirms 'You've *not* lost that lovin' feeling'



Courtesy photo



Photo by 1st Lt. Justin Herman

Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Williams (far left) is surprised by a chorus of 'Happy Birthday' from her husband, Master Sgt. Mike Williams (right), and more than a dozen members of Team Thule during a video teleconference Friday between Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, and here, a distance of more than 3000 miles. Officers at Dyess presented Sergeant Williams a birthday cake, with one also displayed here, as well as a gift from her husband: a free day at a local spa. Tech. Sgt. Williams is a member of the 7th Bomber Wing Communications Squadron at Dyess, and Master Sgt. Williams is the new Team Thule First Shirt.

The stars of stripes



Photo by 1Lt. Justin Herman

Senior Airman Sarah McDonald is presented a new set of Staff Sgt. stripes by Capt. Brint Woodruff and more than 20 other members of Team Thule Aug. 10 at her dorm room in Building 98. Senior Airman McDonald and Captain Woodruff are both members of the 821st Security Forces Squadron here.

Selectees to Technical Sergeant

Senior Airman Steven Hernandez
 Senior Airman Winifred Thompson
 Senior Airman Dean Moyers
 Senior Airman Brian Nadler
 Senior Airman Leigh Smith
 Senior Airman Sarah McDonald
 Senior Airman Diego Solis

Selectees to Technical Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Mike Roberts
 Staff Sgt. Mike Fuentes

Selectees to Master Sergeant

Tech. Sgt. Joel Taimanglo
 Tech. Sgt. David Angermueller



Airman Shaun Mueller
821st Security Forces Squadron

Nickname:

Moomoo

Hometown:

O'Fallon, MS

Time at Thule:

6 months

Job Description:

Force protection and security of Thule AB

Favorite Activities:

"Poking fun at Airman Klutz."

Hobbies:

"Hanging out with Alpha Flight, shining my shoes and improving foreign relations between Denmark and the United States."

Goals:

"To grow a moustache."

Words of Wisdom:

"Close your tab before you leave."

Most Memorable Thule Day:

"The day Airman Peters flew into Thule. He changed my life forever."

What do wingmen have to say about Airman Mueller:

"The best day ever was when I flew into Thule and met him. I changed his life forever." – Airman Matt Peters

Guardians of the *highest* frontier

Chapel staff keeps spirits rising

■ Feature by

1st Lt. Justin Herman

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

Thule's strength is its community.

That's the message delivered by the new Chapel Staff here, and they aren't just going to tell it to people; they want Airman and civilians alike to come out and experience it themselves.

Capt. Kris Cox, 821st Air Base Group chaplain, and Staff Sgt. Aubrey Buhr, Noncommissioned officer in charge of the installation chapel, have built upon the traditional services provided to residents here in order to foster more interaction and spiritual well-being amongst the military, civilian and international population. And according to Chaplain Cox, the invitation is to 'come as you are.'

"Our goal is to meet you where you are. You don't have to fit into some idea of what the chaplain's mold is," said the Minnesota native. "People can fear that a chapel staff will try to fit a person into their viewpoint, but that's not Aubrey and I."

In addition to the religious services offered throughout the week, the Team Thule Chapel Staff hosts Game Night each Friday evening, attended by more than a dozen residents and featuring an assortment of board, card and video games. Individually, Chaplain Cox recently started a band, and Sergeant Buhr is an organizer of a spoken word and music night at the Top of the World Club.

According to Sergeant Buhr, the time he gets to spend with the community, both in counselling and informally, is the most rewarding part of the job.

CHAPEL STAFF continued on page 8



Courtesy photo

Capt. Kris Cox and Staff Sgt. Aubrey Buhr take a hike up to the Greenlandic icecap here in an undated photo. Both Captain Cox and Sergeant Buhr comprise the new Team Thule chapel staff.

CHAPEL STAFF continued from page 7

"People can come to us to talk, and that's 100 percent confidential, but I even enjoy poking my head into everyone's door when I walk by their office, or driving out to the radar sites during the week to have lunch," the Albuquerque native said. "It's important around here to get out of your room and talk to people around here, and the Chapel Staff practices what it preaches."

For more information on the Chapel Staff, contact Captain Cox at X2210.

Greenlandic leader visits Thule

Photo by 1Lt. Justin Herman

Inuuteq Olsen, acting director of Greenland Home Rule Department of Foreign Affairs, meeting with Col. David Buck, 821st Air Base Group commander, and Cmdr. Tommy Toft, Danish Liason officer, during a visit here Aug. 25. Olsen is visiting Thule Air Base to orientate with the local community.

BOXTOP Olympics scores bullseye

Photo by 1Lt. Justin Herman

Lt. Col. Joseph Dennis (archer on right) takes aim to win the archery competition Saturday during the 2005 BOXTOP Olympic Games. Team Thule won the event, but Team Canada took home the Olympic trophy.

the polar profile



Andre L. Burris
LAN/WAN Manager

Contractor :

ARCTEC Services

Nickname:

Dre'

Hometown:

Bossier City, Louisiana

Job Description:

"My responsibilities are to provide and support network communication for the entire base, to include management of more than 30 servers, 30 switches and routers, firewalls and proxy devices."

Time spent at Thule :

"11 months and some days, but who's counting?"

Hobbies:

Basketball, bowling, computer gaming, billiards, dominos, physical fitness

Favorite part of Thule:

"I'd have to say my hobbies are my favorite activities; I really enjoy the camaraderie as well as the challenge. It really helps being away from family and friends when you have great people to work with and lean on when times are hard."

Words of Wisdom:

"Work smart and play hard."

Inspection distinguishes ARCTEC PMEL team

■ *Story by*

1st Lt. Justin Herman

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

The ARCTEC Precision Magnetment Equipment Laboratory here scored high marks recently during an inspection by the U.S. Air Force Metrology and Calibration Assessment Team.

AFMETCAL, based in Heath, Ohio, evaluated ARCTEC PMEL from July 8 - 14, certifying that the four person team demonstrates the ability to perform measurements that are "safe, reliable and traceable," according to Garth Bay, ARCTEC PMEL manager.

ARCTEC PMEL repairs and calibrates all the test equipment here, from personal weight scales for the WarFit program to network radars.

"The technicians on our team did a superior job and are highly qualified, and that was the major factor in the certification of the lab," said Bay. "Gaining this distinction has put our motivation, attitude and focus on high. We're going to make this one great Air Force lab."

Technical ability is not the only area where ARCTEC PMEL has been distinguished recently, however. Upgrades aimed at customer satisfaction, including a reception area with a couch, television and coffee, are part of the contractor's effort to improve service here.

"The whole environment has changed over the past two months," said Bay. "Any discrepancies AFMETCAL found had already been identified and addressed in-house, the backlog is now the lowest it's

been in three years. The five days workable backlog dropped 80 percent in four weeks. The team here is motivated."

According to Misty Avilla, Det. 3 PMEL coordinator, the improvements have meant big change for ARCTEC customers.

"They're making it great to do business at Thule, and it shows," said Avilla.



ARCTEC PMEL Team

Courtesy photo

Thule Times Caption Contest Winner



Photo by 1Lt. Justin Herman

In the last issue of the *Thule Times Express Edition*, we asked readers to come up with a caption for the photo on the left. We received more than 30 responses. The winner each contest can collect a free Public Affairs t-shirt from 1st Lt. Justin Herman.

First place:

'Airmen from the 821st Security Forces Squadron demonstrate the typical behavior of a person who has been bitten by a rabid Arctic fox, or 'Archie.'

- submitted by Maj. Darryl Terrell

Runners-up:

'What do you mean the DC-8 is late again?'

- submitted by Tech. Sgt. Douglas Khan

'Why cops should be first in line at the chow hall.'

- submitted by Staff Sgt. (sel.) Diego Solis

'No, you can't make us eat more pork at the chow hall.'

- submitted by Maj. Steve Gibson

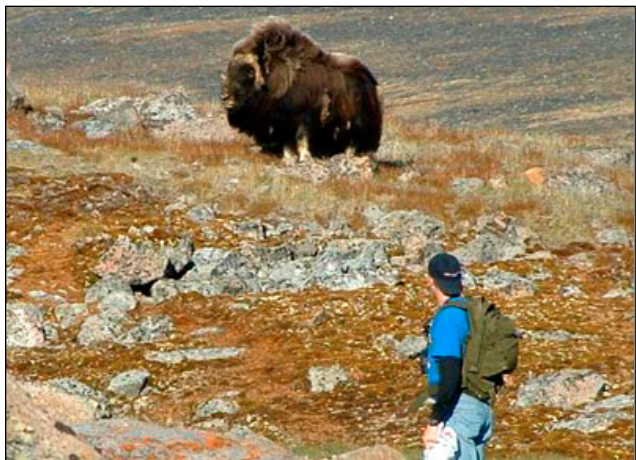
'Airmen hit High C after getting a practice baton below his riot shield.'

- submitted by Master Sgt. Leanne Ray



Photo by 1st Lt. Justin Herman

Lt. Col. Joseph Dennis, 821st Air Base Group deputy commander, impersonates a pirate on a tugboat tour in North Star Bay Aug. 7, shortly before forcing the photographer to walk the plank.



Courtesy photo

Capt. Jeremy Colvin was looking for a new board game partner in all the wrong places Aug. 8 while Thule Trippin'. A herd of wild musk ox has recently populated the outskirts of base, but will they play marbles?

Airmen on the rocks



Photo by 1st. Lt. Justin Herman

Team Thule leadership dive into the North Star Bay during the Polar Bear Swim at Tugboat Beach here Aug. 20. More than two dozen individuals swam in the frozen waters during the annual event.



Photo by Senior Airman Sarah McDonald

Tech. Sgt. Paul Evans and Staff Sgt. Chuck Desaulniers take a rest from swimming in the frigid Arctic Ocean on an iceberg during the Polar Bear Swim at Tugboat beach here Aug. 20. Sergeants Evans and Desaulniers are part of the 821st Security Forces Squadron.

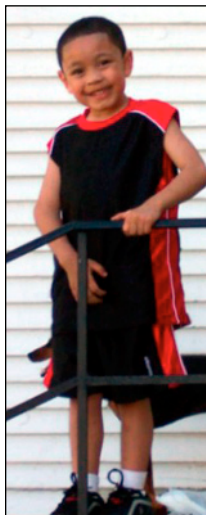
Here ye, Here ye!



Courtesy photo

(left) Staff Sgt. Heather "Cha Cha" Chavez celebrated her birthday here Aug. 12 with a cake and more than a dozen Airmen in attendance.

(right) James "JL" Cobbs, son of Master Sgt. James Cobbs, celebrated his fifth birthday July 15 at Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND. Congratulations!



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Doug "Shaka" Kahn is proud to announce that his wife, Roxanne, was named Child Care Provider of the Month for July at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Roxanne is responsible for up to six children, hosting events including finger painting, duck duck goose and muffin pizza baking.